

GRAD

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newsletter

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2145 Mackay St., S-306 Tel. 897-7219

G.S.A. GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS OF APRIL 76

At the close of nominations, the election situation is as follows:

(CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS)

PRESIDENT	Willy Kotiuga Guy Ouellet Daniel Reicher	
VICE-PRESIDENT	M. Omair Ahmad	Acclaimed
SECRETARY-TREASURER	R. Richard Hahn Richard Stetiu	

CANDIDATES FOR REPRESENTATIVE POSITIONS

ARTS	Stylianios Vournas	Acclaimed
COMMERCE	Peter Mahler	Acclaimed
ENGINEERING	Oswald George Harris	Acclaimed
SCIENCE	Rajender S. Sipehia	Acclaimed

VOTING BY MAIL DEADLINE EXTENDED

An official BALLOT is INCLUDED in this mailing. Ballots will be accepted ONLY in the ENCLOSED RETURN ENVELOPE; by regular CANADA POST OFFICE mail OR internal Concordia University mail. The envelopes containing Ballots MUST BE SEALED in order to be valid.

Internal mailed-in ballots will be accepted only until the official closing time of the Hall Building Mail Room on April 7th, 1976.

Canada Post Office mailed-in ballots must be received by April 7th, 1976 at 5:00 p.m.

All ballots received after the specified times, dates and conditions will be deemed NULL and VOID.

VOTING IN PERSON

Polling stations will be established on the Ground floor of the Hall Building, S.G.W.U. Campus, on Thursday, April 1st and Friday, April 2nd, 1976. Times are from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Proof of student identification or registration will be required to vote in person.

Any inquiries should be directed to the Chief Returning Officer.

James G. Conway
Chief Returning Officer
c/o Graduate Students' Association
2145 Mackay Street, Suite S-306
Montreal, P.Q.
tel- 514-879-7219

G.S.A. REBUTTAL TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS INQUIRY

As you have all probably read in the University rag, we have been experiencing numerous difficulties with holding our by-election and confirming the results.

The problems originated with the mail strike, which I'm sure you all remember, because it prevented us from mailing out the ballots as has been our tradition. After waiting, optimistically for some time, we felt that perhaps the Postmaster General was serious when he said it might last until May, so we devised a direct ballot plan. Just as this was scheduled to take place, the strike ended and we immediately reverted to our normal mail-in approach. The election was held and certain people won and others lost. Mr. Stylianos Vournas was elected as President by a 2-1 margin and Mr. Guy Ouellet lost. Mr. Vournas running mate Bruce Dishong also defeated Mr. Létourneau, Mr. Ouellet's partner by a similar margin. At this point, Mr. Ouellet, who had been quoted extensively in articles considered rather damaging to the Graduate Students' Association, decided to protest about the results to the Board of Governors. Joining him in this quest were the other losers in the election, Mr. Létourneau and the recently resigned Commerce Rep. of the G.S.A. and recently resigned President of the M.B.A.S.A. Mr. Mel Burt.

In a letter to the Rector, they charged that there had been certain election by-laws which had not been strictly adhered to. The Board of Governors set up a three man inquiry to investigate their allegations, composed of an outside lawyer, a faculty Board member, and a Board Student member. To assure the proper fulfilment of their mandate, Mr. Michael Sheldon, the Assistant to the Rector, also participated. They proceeded with what they felt was sufficient investigation. They questioned losers, Ouellet, Létourneau, and Mr. Burt. They also questioned the former Secretary of the Association whose services had been terminated. They questioned the Chief Returning Officer. And that was it. The inquiry members felt no need to ask the winning candidates of the election or any member of the Executive Council any questions.

The G.S.A. Executive Council felt that it was necessary to rebutt this report and here are some excerpts from it:

..."The members of the Executive Council of the G.S.A., met on February 20th, 1976 to consider the report of the Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors inquiring into the recent G.S.A. by-elections.

..."We would like to make the following observations. First of all we do not feel that a sufficiently thorough investigation took place. Not one member of the Executive Council was questioned. This would have permitted more complete and certainly more accurate information than seems to have been made available. Furthermore, only certain of the candidates for office were asked to appear before this sub-committee.

... "notices not appearing on time or of improper or incomplete composition are totally beyond our control. The Georgian is far from perfect in following even the clearest instructions.

.... "strong exception is taken to the suggestion that any potential nominee had difficulty in obtaining information or access to nomination procedures. In fact, great pains were taken by the G.S.A. to encourage participation by extending the office hours, using every available means of dissemination information and actively encouraging qualified people to become involved.

..." The Sub-Committee's report states that publication in the G.S.A. Newsletter is not sufficient, it happens to be the single most effective publication for reaching our students. It is mailed to the same address of every single member of our association. No other "University" publication can serve our purpose this well. Until the Board of Governors sees fit to entrust the Georgian with the function of serving as Concordia's official voice, we will continue to utilize our own form. It is stated in the report that "more than 54 envelopes containing such ballots were returned undelivered". What they neglected to say is that approximately 2,500 others did reach their destination.

..." Ballot papers were not "mailed within a delay of 24 hours of the closing of nominations", because it is a physical impossibility. When nominations closed then, and only then, can the ballots be prepared. There is no way that we know of where ballots can be designed, printed, delivered, stuffed and mailed within 24 hours.

..." first of all the Council agrees with the interpretation of the C.R.O."... " a contradiction by Mr. Ouellet and Mrs. Hanson is meaningless, there are less prejudiced opinions which were not heard. Furthermore there is an innuendo that is expressed concerning the likelihood of eighteen irregularly-cast votes. This is purely an opinion based on incomplete and inaccurate information and seem highly subjective, very questionable and should not have appeared in this report.

..." The vote always had been held in the G.S.A. office. If our space is inadequate we would very much look forward to newer, larger, more modern facilities than our present "inadequate" ones.

..." the statement of G.S.A. secretary has no validity as she was not in a position to have any first hand knowledge of the situation. Council is convinced that the C.R.O. acted properly.

..."the one vote cast on a photo-copy was done so with the full knowledge of the C.R.O and it was allowed because Mr. Ouellet, the voter in this instance, claimed that out of over 2,500 students, he was the only one who had not received a ballot in the mail."

..."Conclusions; Regardless of the inadequacy of this sub-committee report it is felt by Council that compliance with its recommendations, endorsed by the Board of Governors, would be in the better interests of the Graduate Students' Association. The G.S.A. will therefore act accordingly, following the present by-laws except where it is impossible.

Hey, Buddy, Can You Spare 2 G's?

The G.S.A. has received many requests for money this year from various members of the University and has disbursed a rather generous portion. Details will be available at the Annual Meeting from the Secretary-Treasurer. Some requests were turned down, including one for \$2,000.00 by the Literary Society of English Graduate Students'. To avoid misunderstandings in the future, here are our basic policy guidelines which should be considered prior to applying for funds:

1. Funds are allocated where we are able to help our Graduate Students become actively involved in a project or Conference. Attendance is not considered sufficient reason or everyone would want to go Somewhere.
2. Funds are allocated to events where as many of our membership is the University might benefit, such as a symposium request speaker at Concordia.
3. We have a very small budget of around \$13,000.00 per year at the moment so please take this into consideration when making requests. Remember we have approximately 2,500 students to take care of.
4. All applications should be forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer of the G.S.A. in writing at least 30 days prior to the money being needed.

If you help us we can assure you that we'll do all we can to help you.

\$5,000 who's got the \$5,000

Upon taking over as Secretary-Treasurer in November, former President Richard Hahn discovered a slight discrepancy in the G.S.A.'s University Account- \$5,000.00 was missing!

Former Secretary-Treasurer Guy Ouellet hadn't noticed it apparently, despite the fact that the G.S.A. annual budget totals only about \$13,000.00!

Happily, Mr. Hahn looked into the matter and found the money which had been lost somewhere in Concordia's massive bookkeeping computer.

All's well that ends well! Thanks Richard.

TAXI-I-I-I !

The G.S.A. office recently received some bills from a local taxi company for a number of cancelled credit chits. This surprised the members of the Executive Council as they were not aware of the existence of such an account. The chits were signed by former G.S.A. Secretary-Treasurer, Guy Ouellet, who had resigned at the end of October.

To investigate this matter a special meeting was held at which Mr. Ouellet was present to explain his conduct. He said that he had applied for the credit account, on his own initiative, two weeks before he resigned. He also admitted neglecting to inform any other member of Council, not even the other two signing officers of the Association.

Mr. Ouellet recognized that he had not been authorized to apply for this account in any way by Council and that in retrospect it seemed wrong, but at the time he had thought it all right.

He claimed that he used the chits for attending meetings at Loyola and Sir George on behalf of the G.S.A. The amounts totalled approximately \$100.00. The dates, times and places were either obscure or blank in most cases, and Mr. Ouellet agreed that it would be very time consuming to fully document the fact that he had, in fact, used them for his stated purpose.

One chit was used after midnight on New Years' Eve and the Council found it rather difficult to understand what the official purpose could have been on that particular occasion.

In any event, Mr. Ouellet was told by the members of the Executive, that prior to the G.S.A.'s taking any further action, he would be given the opportunity to try and substantiate his claim that these were not, in fact, personal unauthorized expenditures, and were G.S.A. business expenses.

Mr. Hahn, the Secretary-Treasurer, informed Council that since the G.S.A. was an unincorporated body, individual Council members are liable for whatever they sign, if it is unauthorized, as in Mr. Ouellet's case.

The G.S.A. sought legal advice with respect to this problem. Counsel informed the G.S.A. that " Mr. Ouellet went beyond his mandate, and perhaps in bad faith took advantage of his title and office to the prejudice of the Association. "

Your Council is , of course, reticent to presume bad faith on the part of any members or former members of it's Executive. The G.S.A. has always followed the practice of re-imbursing individuals for expenses incurred in Council or G.S.A. business. As the G.S.A. expands in membership it's responsibilities increase, and the growing bureaucracy of the University creates problems in financial control. The Council, therefore understands they must be more careful in assuring that tight fiscal control in exercised over G.S.A. funds.

The unanimous feeling of Council was that certain measures should be taken to prevent the recurrence of such a situation. Motions to that effect were presented before acting-council chairman Hahn by members Ahmad and Sipehia, supported by Board of Governors representative Vavalides, and passed unanimously.

And Now For Something Completely Serious

APATHY!

The apathetic "don't want to get involved" attitude of the Graduate Students is amazing. In our last elections the results were pathetic. There is another election happening now. To those of you who reject or sneer at the G.S.A. election, we hope you understand that you are rejecting the only voice you have on campus.

The Graduate Students' Association is made up of seven elected Council members, numerous volunteers who sit in important committees and anyone else who's willing to get involved for no money. That's right, no money. We don't get any honorarium like some other student associations.

We endeavour to assist graduate students in many areas. All year Council has put in many long hours helping students. We have been meeting with administrators, fighting Student Services on unjustified fees, and trying to get as much as possible for YOU, the student. Today, we have to sit back and wonder... is it really worth it? Is it worth working our butts off at the G.S.A. offices at night, spending countless hours attending meetings, giving up our cherished time for you? Unless you vote in these elections it will be pretty obvious that you don't.

Next year, if Student Service fees go up again or your tuition increases, don't come to us if you don't vote. If you need a particular course to graduate and it isn't offered, don't come crying to us if you don't vote. If you find that a professor is not suitable, don't ask us to help you, if you don't vote. If you would like to know what extra activities you can have at Concordia, don't ask us what they are or ask us to get them for you, if you don't vote. If you want to know what is happening on campus for graduate students, don't come to us for information, if you don't vote. If your group needs funding for some worthwhile project and can't get any, don't come to us if you don't vote. We may not be around!

You see, we need people, students, YOU! We need you to show that you care we're still here. The only real way you can do this is to vote in this election. Simple logic shows that if no one votes, the Council represents no one; and if it represents no one then it shouldn't exist; and if it ceases to exist, you will not have one little bit of power left in this University! You will just be a student, one of many with absolutely no voice. So think about it.

Things aren't just happening automatically, so don't just take us for granted and abdicate your responsibility!

We, your Council are pretty exhausted. It has been a long year. We have done our best to help You. Now, when we need you, don't disappear into the woodwork. Please don't keep passing the buck, because pretty soon there might not be anyone to pass it to. All we ask from you is that you vote in this election. It's easy, it's painless, so do it!

Thanks. Members of the Executive Council,
Richard Hahn, Omair Ahmad, Rajender Sipehia, K.S. Thyagarajan, S. Vavalides

The Bandwagon's Rollin' !

The current G.S.A. election has already produced one interesting development. Apparently grad students in all areas of the University Community have noticed the adverse publicity directed at the G.S.A. and it has not been appreciated. Guy Ouellet, who always seems to be quoted when defaming the G.S.A. seems to have aroused graduate students' anger.

Consequently his candidacy is being vigorously opposed and his dreams of power, already seem doomed. Two other candidates are opposing Mr. Ouellet for G.S.A. President. Dan Reicher, presently president of the Political Science Assembly, and Willy Kotiuga, presently president of the Georgian Christian Fellowship.

Willy Kotiuga was the only one to field a full slate of candidates for the seven positions, five of which were acclaimed so he has to be considered the likeliest person to succeed as President of the G.S.A.

Mr. Kotiuga has received endorsements from three former G.S.A. Presidents; Nick Calinou who served graduate students faithfully for over two years, Richard Hahn who's tenure exceeded eighteen months, during which time he distinguished himself as a graduate student rep on countless committees and fought student services fee increases, and Stylianos Vournas, who was elected president last election defeating Guy Ouellet, but only served for a few weeks because of certain complications.

Mr. Hahn is presently a candidate for re-election as G.S.A. Secretary-Treasurer and Mr. Vournas has been acclaimed as G.S.A. Arts Representative for '76-'77.

Stefanos Vavalides, The G.S.A.'s member on Concordia's Board of Governors has endorsed Willy Kotiuga and Richard Hahn's candidacy saying he felt " it would provide the best possible leadership and integrity for the Association"

All the other members of the Council have also expressed support for Mr. Kotiuga and Mr. Hahn, which would seem to make Mr. Ouellet's outlook rather dim, indeed. This probably indicates that students prefer a positive, optimistic viewpoint such as that expressed by Willy Kotiuga and Richard Hahn, than the negative criticism expressed by Mr. Ouellet.

As always, however it is the voters who decide and on this occasion, their decision is eagerly awaited.

M.B.A.S.A. '76 - '76

The results of the election for the executive of the M.V.A.S.A. Students' Association are in. Elected were; President - Rudi Kerklaan, External V.P.- Susan Hershman, Internal V.P. - Bill Ewing, Treasurer - Don Brown, Secretary - Jon Walker.

On behalf of the entire G.S.A. Executive Council, Stefanos Vavalides, the G.S.A. Commerce Representative and members of the Board of Governors, wish to extend sincerest congratulations to these new representatives on that very important Graduate Student Body.

We now have a new secretary, Joanne, who will be in the G.S.A. office Mon.- Thurs., 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

EXAMS' SIGH...

It's that time of the year again, so we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best of luck with your exams. If you are graduating, congratulations! If you're not, we hope it's nothing permanent.

ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: FRIDAY' APRIL 9th,1976
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: HALL BUILDING - ROOM 937

All graduate students and their escorts,
are cordially invited
to an evening of hilarious entertainment.
We will be showing the great Screen epic,
" And Now For Something Completely Different"

STARRING

Monty Python's Flying Circus

Also in the same lighter vein, your G.S.A. Executive Council will report on its activities of the past year and will open the floor to any and all questions.

At this time, the election will be over and you can meet the new members of the Council who will be your mouthpieces in the University whenever you need them and even when you don't.

Following these thrilling highlights, the most popular event of the soiree shall be held , the Great Wine and Cheese Orgy. It will be catered by Chanteclerc wines and they provide a multi-course wine selection, a delicious assortment of fresh patés,bread stuffs and fruits to tickle your palate.

COME ONE,

COME ALL,

... And if you want popcorn for the movies, bring your own!



Please bring your I.D. card as only Graduate Students and their guests (1 only) will be allowed to attend. Bring this newsletter if you can't find your I.D.

